

IT WAS A triumph for discipline when Wycombe Wanderers beat their Southern League opponents, Kettering Town, in a friendly on Saturday. The Wanderers took all that Kettering could throw at them in the first 20 minutes. Then, when they wrested the initiative, they never looked back. But directly after the Wanderers' first goal, Kettering's discipline began to deteriorate. And it got worse and worse, until Wycombe were in complete control. The 3-0 victory was completely deserved.

This was an all round performance by the Wanderers, with Alan Phillips setting a fine example in midfield. The front runners reacted well to the prompting of the midfield men. Terry Scott probably had his best match to date and newcomer Mark Judd impressed.

Judd is a 20 year old forward from the Birmingham area with experience with Aston Villa

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Kettering Town 0

and Atherstone in the Southern League.

Wanderers are to be congratulated on arranging such a friendly. What a pity that the gate was so poor, because it was one of the best games seen at Loakes Park this season.

Kettering were very much on top at the start and John Maskell put a fierce shot from Graham Fletton over the bar in brilliant style.

It was eight minutes before Wanderers mounted an attack when Howard Kennedy eventually had a good header saved by keeper Enderby. Then Stewart Atkins dummied, Kennedy had a shot blocked and John Priestley shot wide. Atkins also shot wide.

Kettering came back with some delightful football, but Wanderers saw to it that they did not get in a shot. When they did, it was the miss of the match from Roy Clayton who was left with the ball between two defenders. John Maskell advanced, spread himself out and the ball went to safety off his legs. Kettering should certainly have

scored here — they were only eight yards out.

The match was half an hour old now and Kettering had the edge. The fact that John Maskell had not been overworked was a tribute to the Wycombe back four, with the example set by Phillips.

Shock lead

Rather surprisingly the Wanderers took the lead in 32 minutes. Shaun Studdard was in no danger when he made a bad back pass, but Steve Long seized the opportunity to drive the ball home.

The effect on Kettering was quite dramatic and Kennedy, Birdseye (twice) and Atkins all went close. Then there was a mighty scramble from a Keith Mead free-kick.

Kettering substituted McIlroy and Lea for Hughes and Clayton in the second half, while Wanderers brought on Terry Scott for Atkins.

Maskell had to make a couple of saves, but Wanderers had wrested midfield control from Kettering.

So the second goal came in 54 minutes, one of the best constructed and executed at Loakes Park this season. Paul Birdseye won the ball in defence, brought it forward, slipped it to Howard Kennedy in the centre. Intelligently Terry Scott ran outside, Kennedy slipped him the ball and Scott, accelerating, hit this shot firmly into the corner of the net. Great Scott, what a goal!

Physical

By now Kettering were visibly defeated. Their play deteriorated so much that they became physical and after a series of free kicks Richard Dixey was shown the yellow card for bringing down Holifield when he was in full flight.

Kettering were in dire trouble. After 67 minutes Wanderers brought on Les Reed for Long and immediately they forced two corners.

Long crosses by Birdseye and Bob Davies caused no end of bother for ragged Kettering and a third goal was always on the cards.

It came in the 85th minute. Terry Scott was badly brought down by Richard Dixey and Kennedy slammed home the penalty.

It was no more than the Wanderers deserved. They had given Kettering a lesson in discipline.

KETTERING: Scott Enderby, Roger Ashby, Lydon Hughes (Steven McIlroy 45 mins), Nicky Evans, Richard Dixey, Shaun Studdards, John Flannagan, Bill Kellock, Graham Fletton, Roy Clayton (Jeff Lee 45 mins), Fred Oasthall.

WYCOMBE: John Maskell, Paul Birdseye, Bob Davies, Keith Mead, Alan Phillips, John Priestley, Stewart Atkins (Terry Scott 45 mins), Mick Holifield, Steve Long (Les Reed 67 mins), Howard Kennedy, Mark Judd.

HOME TIE FOR BLUES

WYCOMBE Wanderers have drawn Maidenhead United at home in the third round of the Berks and Bucks Cup.

The match will be played on Tuesday, January 23 at 7.30 pm.

The full draw is: Aylesbury United v Hungerford Town, Wycombe Wanderers v Maidenhead United, Rackwell Heath v Slough Town, Bracknell Town v Newbury Town.